STANDING COMMITTEE

ON

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

2010

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Hon. Charlie Parker
Speaker
House of Assembly
Province House
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On behalf of the Standing Committee on Economic Development, I am pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Committee for the First and Second Sessions of the Sixty-First General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Birdsall

Ms. Pam Birdsall, MLA
(Lunenburg)
Chair
Standing Committee on Economic Development

Halifax, Nova Scotia
2010

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INTRODUCTION

Mandate

The Standing Committee on Economic Development, an all-party Committee of the House of Assembly, was struck at the beginning of the First Session of the Sixty-First General Assembly. Pursuant to Rule 60(2) (ba) of the ***Province of Nova Scotia Rules and Forms of Procedures of the House of Assembly:***

> **(ba)** the Economic Development Committee is established for the purpose of considering matters normally assigned to or within the purview of the Department of Economic & Rural Development and the Minister responsible for the Department and the Department and Minister of Transportation and Public Works and matters relating to the Technology and Science Secretariat.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Economic Development Committee is currently as follows:

Ms. Pam Birdsall, MLA - Chair
Lunenburg

Ms. Vicki Conrad, MLA
Queens

Mr. Brian Skabar, MLA – Vice-Chair
Cumberland North

Mr. Jim Boudreau, MLA
Guysborough – Sheet Harbour

Ms. Lenore Zann, MLA
Truro – Bible Hill

Hon. Keith Colwell, MLA
Preston

Mr. Zach Churchill, MLA
Yarmouth

Hon. Chris d'Entremont, MLA
Argyle

Mr. Keith Bain, MLA
Victoria – The Lakes

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

During the Second Session of the Sixty-First General Assembly, the Committee underwent the following membership changes:

Mr. Zach Churchill replaced Mr. Andrew Younger as a member of the Committee.

PROCEDURES AND OPERATIONS

The Standing Committee on Economic Development usually meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Legislative Committees Office. During the First and Second Session of the Sixty-First General Assembly the Committee met on the following dates:

December 8, 2009
January 12, 2010
February 9, 2010
March 9, 2010
June 8, 2010

NOTICES, TRANSCRIPTS AND REPORTS

Notices

Notices of the Committee meetings are sent to all members of the Committee, staff of the caucus offices, the legislative staff and the House of Assembly Press Gallery. The notices are also posted in Province House and are on the Committee's website at the following address: http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/committees/development.html

Transcripts

Transcripts of the Economic Development Committee meetings are available from the Legislative Library in Province House, the Legislative Committees Office or on the Economic Development Committee's website at the following address:
http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/ed/

Reports

All reports of the Standing Committee on Economic Development are compiled by the Legislative Committees Office and forwarded to Committee members for consideration. Once the report is finalized, it is then distributed as follows:

To the Speaker and the Clerk of the House of Assembly, all Members of the Legislative Assembly, all witnesses who appeared before the Committee, the Legislative Library in Nova Scotia and in other provinces and territories, the caucus offices and the media. The report is also available to all persons interested in obtaining a copy from the Legislative Committees Office or on the Committee's website at the following address: http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/committees/ed_pubs.html

RESEARCH MATERIAL

All research for the Economic Development Committee is compiled by the Legislative Library and distributed by the Committee Clerk prior to the meeting to Committee members, caucus researchers, Legislative Library in the Province of Nova Scotia and to Hansard Reporting Services.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee wishes to extend it's gratitude to the following witnesses for their time and co-operation: Department of Economic and Rural Development, Nova Scotia Business Inc., Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board, Cumberland Regional Economic Development Association, and Black Business Initiative. Special appreciation is extended to the staff of the Legislative Committees Office, Mr. Robert Kinsman, Editor of Hansard Reporting Services and staff; Mr. James MacInnes, Coordinator/Director of Legislative Television and Broadcast Services and staff; and Ms. Margaret Murphy, Legislative Librarian and staff, with special thanks to Ms. Heather Ludlow, Information Services Librarian, for her research assistance.

WITNESSES

December 8, 2009	**Organizational Meeting**
January 12, 2010	**Department of Economic & Rural Development** **Nova Scotia Business Inc.**
February 9, 2010	**Fisheries & Aquaculture Loan Board** Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture Fisheries & Aquaculture Loan Board
March 9, 2010	**Projects & Work Undertaken by Regional Development Authorities (RDAs)** Department of Economic & Rural Development Cumberland Regional Economic Development Association
June 8, 2010	**Black Business Initiative**

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING — December 8, 2009

WITNESSES

There were no witnesses present at the meeting.

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed potential witnesses for future meetings of the Committee.

TRANSCRIPT

A transcript of this meeting can be found at the following address:
http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/ed/ed_2009dec08.htm

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC & RURAL DEVELOPMENT / NOVA SCOTIA BUSINESS INC. — January 12, 2010

WITNESSES

Department of Economic & Rural Development
Mr. Ian Thompson, Deputy Minister
Mr. Dan MacDonald, President & CEO, InNOVAcorp

Nova Scotia Business Inc.
Mr. Stephen Lund, President & CEO
Mr. Pat Ryan, Vice-President & COO
Ms. Lisa Bugden, Vice-President, Marketing & Communications

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the Department of Economic & Rural Development and its initiatives, as well as an overview of Nova Scotia Business Inc.

MOTIONS

There were no motions made during the meeting.

DOCUMENTATION

There was no documentation requested.

TRANSCRIPT

A transcript of this meeting can be found at the following address:
http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/ed/ed_2010jan12.htm

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE LOAN BOARD — February 9, 2010

WITNESSES

Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture
Mr. Paul LaFleche, Deputy Minister

Fisheries & Aquaculture Loan Board
Mr. Roy Surette, Chair
Mr. Bruce Cox, Director

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The purpose of the meeting was to provide information about the Fisheries & Aquaculture Loan Board.

MOTIONS

There were no motions made during the meeting.

DOCUMENTATION

There was no documentation requested.

TRANSCRIPT

A transcript of this meeting can be found at the following address:
http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/ed/ed_2010feb09.htm

PROJECTS & WORK UNDERTAKEN BY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES (RDAs) — **March 9, 2010**

WITNESSES

Department of Economic & Rural Development
Mr. Neal Conrad, Executive Director, Community & Rural Development

Cumberland Regional Economic Development Association
Ms. Rhonda Kelly, Executive Director

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on the status of various projects and work undertaken by Regional Development Authorities.

MOTIONS

There were no motions made during the meeting.

DOCUMENTATION

The Committee requested and received the following information:

- How many jobs are created in a year as a result of RDAs activities, with a $6.5 million investment;
- A list of approximately 150 variables regarding what is needed to attract and retain businesses and people to communities;
- A list of how many RDAs have implemented the above 150 or so initiatives toward creating an environment for business in Nova Scotia;
- Provide the eight key performance indicators used to evaluate RDAs;
- How each of the 13 RDAs measure up on the eight key performance indicators.

TRANSCRIPT

A transcript of this meeting can be found at the following address:
http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/ed/ed_2010mar09.htm

BLACK BUSINESS INITIATIVE — June 8, 2010

WITNESSES

Black Business Initiative
Mr. Rustum Southwell, Chief Executive Officer
Ms. Cassandra Dorrington, Chair, Board of Directors
Mr. Gordon Doe, Director of Business Development
Ms. Cheyanne Gorman-Tolliver, Regional Business Development Manager

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The purpose of the meeting was to provide information about the organization, its mission and activities.

MOTIONS

There were no motions made during the meeting.

DOCUMENTATION

There was no documentation requested.

TRANSCRIPT

A transcript of this meeting can be found at the following address:
http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/ed/ed_2010jun08.htm

STATEMENT OF SUBMISSION

All of which is respectfully submitted to the House of Assembly
This 19th day of October, 2010

Ms. Pam Birdsall, MLA
Chair

Ms. Vicki Conrad, MLA

Hon. Keith Colwell, MLA

Mr. Brian Skabar, MLA (Vice-Chair)

Mr. Zach Churchill, MLA

Mr. Jim Boudreau, MLA

Hon. Chris d'Entremont, MLA

Ms. Lenore Zann, MLA

Mr. Keith Bain, MLA

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

List of Information Requested

The following information was requested and received by the Standing Committee on Economic Development:

Department of Economic and Rural Development - Projects & Work Undertaken by Regional Development Authorities (RDAs) - March 9, 2010

- How many jobs are created in a year as a result of RDAs activities, with a $6.5 million investment;
- A list of approximately 150 variables regarding what is needed to attract and retain businesses and people to communities;
- A list of how many RDAs have implemented the above 150 or so initiatives toward creating an environment for business in Nova Scotia;
- Provide the eight key performance indicators used to evaluate RDAs;
- How each of the 13 RDAs measure up on the eight key performance indicators.

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